

10-29-1948

## City Club of Portland Bulletin vol. 29, no. 26 (1948-10-29)

City Club of Portland (Portland, Or.)

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Follow this and additional works at: [http://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/oscdl\\_cityclub](http://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/oscdl_cityclub)



Part of the [Urban Studies Commons](#), and the [Urban Studies and Planning Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

City Club of Portland (Portland, Or.), "City Club of Portland Bulletin vol. 29, no. 26 (1948-10-29)" (1948). *City Club of Portland*. Paper 135.

[http://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/oscdl\\_cityclub/135](http://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/oscdl_cityclub/135)

This Bulletin is brought to you for free and open access. It has been accepted for inclusion in City Club of Portland by an authorized administrator of PDXScholar. For more information, please contact [pdxscholar@pdx.edu](mailto:pdxscholar@pdx.edu).

# PORTLAND *City Club* BULLETIN

Crystal Room » Benson Hotel  
FRIDAY . . . 12:10 P.M.

PORTLAND, OREGON — Vol. 29, No. 26 — OCT. 29, 1948

## REGINALD SORENSON

Member of the Parliament of Great Britain

### The PROGRAM of the BRITISH LABOR MOVEMENT

In 1929 Mr. Sorenson was elected from Leyton to the Parliament on the Labor Party Platform. He is at present on several committees dealing with colonial affairs and education and is a member of the Labor Party Imperial Advisory Committee.

Interested in the creation of a constructive peace, Mr. Sorenson hopes to make clear to the people of the United States the ends towards which the present British government is working. He knows that there must be an alternative to communism. He believes that the economic foundations of a peaceful world must be established by men who respect and serve the ideal of human freedom.

Mr. Sorenson has written articles for many British and Indian journals, and among the several of his books are "God and Bread," "In Family and Humanity," and "My Impression of India."

## ALSO IN THIS ISSUE TO BE ACTED ON BY MEMBERSHIP:

### DAYLIGHT SAVING AMENDMENT TO CITY CHARTER

*The Committee:* Joseph J. Labadie, Douglas Lynch, and Frank H. Eiseman, *Chairman*.

### ANNEXATION MEASURES

*The Committee:* Franklin L. Davis, Hollis Johnston, and Stanley Sporseen, *Chairman*.

Under Legislation and Elections Section, Nelson C. Hazeltine, *Section Chairman*.

## ALSO IN THIS ISSUE . . .

### SUMMARIES OF CITY CLUB ELECTION REPORTS

---

#### ELECTED TO MEMBERSHIP

DR. ARTHUR M. BERGMAN

Physician

Proposed by Dr. John M. Pierson

VIRGIL H. LANGTRY

Chief Deputy City Attorney

Proposed by Thomas H. Tongue III

HUGH STEWART TREMAINE

Attorney, Associate with

Koerner, Young, Swett and McColloch

Proposed by Alfred H. Corbett

#### PROPOSED FOR MEMBERSHIP AND APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

If no objections are received by the Executive Secretary prior to November 11, 1948, the following applicants will be elected:

E. F. PEARSON

Assistant General Manager  
Pacific Power and Light Co.

Proposed by Charles M. Sanford

SIDNEY LEA THOMPSON, Sr.

Security Servicing Officer  
Farmers-Home Administration  
U. S. D. A.

Proposed by Alex P. Olsson



## DAYLIGHT SAVING AMENDMENT

**PURPOSE:** An Act to amend Portland's City Charter to provide for advancing official time in the City one hour from Pacific Standard Time at 2:01 a.m. on the second Sunday in May, continuing until 1:59 a.m. on the second Sunday in September each year, but allowing the Council to provide for keeping the City on Pacific Standard Time in any year if it appears the best interest of the City will be served thereby, and providing exceptions for the time of holding elections or performance of acts required at time prescribed by authority superior to the City.

Shall the Charter be so amended?

502—YES I vote for the amendment.

503—NO I vote against the amendment.

To the Board of Governors of the City Club of Portland:

In its investigation your committee was inclined to the belief that the economic interests represented by the various organized groups either supporting or opposing the proposed amendment are of more significance than their arguments for or against the amendment.

The Portland Retail Trade Bureau, the East Side Commercial Club, the Portland Lion's Club and others were found to be on record in favor of the measure. The Oregon State Grange, the Theatre Owners of America, the Oregon Federation of Labor, and the Portland Central Labor Council have expressed their opposition to the measure.

Polls of various retail employee groups and of Portland newspaper readers have indicated a majority in favor of daylight saving time. Editorials of Portland newspapers as well as Letters-to-the-Editor were likewise explored for pertinent expressions of opinion.

Not without sympathy your committee heard those views both for and against the measure which were based on admitted economic self-interest, but it found itself unable to estimate accurately the relative values of the conflicting claims. What is asserted to be to the financial disadvantage of theatres and night clubs, for example, is claimed, on the other hand, to benefit some retail trades and some businesses related to other types of recreational and tourist activities. The same difficulty was encountered in attempting to evaluate objectively the preferences of retail and office workers against the objections raised by organized labor, or the city dweller's enthusiastic interest in home and garden as against the farmer's reluctance to arise an hour earlier, and even, indeed, the suburbanite who hurries home of a summer evening to cultivate a back-yard vegetable patch by daylight is faced with the dilemma of enjoying his labor while persuading his children to get off to bed before sundown.

In considering the opinion which holds it improper to tinker with God's or Nature's time, your committee noted that Standard time as we know it has existed only since 1883, having been established as the result of an arbitrary agreement among various railroad systems to eliminate confusion arising from a multitude of local times.

Putting its own preferences in the matter resolutely and obscurely behind it, your committee has concluded that those arguments which are not of an economic nature are so entangled in the emotional responses and purely personal inclinations of people as to defy factual analysis. It is generally agreed that a decision either for or against daylight saving time is desirable at an early date to facilitate planning for summer activities. The committee feels that the city council has acted wisely in placing the measure on the ballot to give voters an opportunity to express their preference.

### RECOMMENDATION

On the basis of the investigation described above, your committee respectfully recommends that the City Club take no official position on this proposed charter amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

JOSEPH J. LABADIE  
DOUGLAS LYNCH  
FRANK H. EISEMAN, *Chairman*

Approved October 20, 1948, by Nelson C. Hazeltine, *Section Chairman*, Legislation and Elections for transmittal to the Board of Governors.

Received October 25, 1948, by the Board of Governors and ordered published and submitted to the membership for discussion and action.



## **ANNEXATION BILL—SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION**

PROPOSITION No. 1—HOME WATER DISTRICT AREA  
PROPOSITION No. 2—SELLWOOD GARDENS AREA  
PROPOSITION No. 3—BERTHA WATER DISTRICT AREA  
PROPOSITION No. 4—HESSLER HEIGHTS AREA

To the Board of Governors of the City Club of Portland:

Your committee was instructed to study the proposed ordinances authorizing the annexation of four areas by the city of Portland upon which residents of Portland as well as of the affected areas must vote. These four areas are as follows:

- (1) Home Water District Area which includes the communities of Multnomah and Hillsdale.
- (2) Sellwood Gardens Area, a small area in Clackamas County lying between the city limits of Portland and Milwaukie on both sides of the Super Highway.
- (3) Bertha Water District Area in Multnomah County between Home Water District and S.W. Hamilton Street.
- (4) Hessler Heights Area, an eleven-acre subdivision in the northeast corner of Bertha Water District.

### **History:**

The city of Portland has grown from an area of 2.1 square miles at the time of its incorporation on January 23, 1851, to its present area of 66.86 square miles by consolidation and annexation. The most recent annexation, the tract bounded by N.E. 42nd, Fremont, N.E. 52nd, and Prescott, was made in 1928.

When the town of Sellwood was annexed to the city of Portland in 1893, this part of Clackamas County was made a part of Multnomah County so that Portland would be entirely in the latter county.

### **Investigation:**

Your committee interviewed city officials of Portland, official representatives of the people living in the areas under consideration and a number of residents of two of the districts. It also considered materials which in printed form are available on the subject of municipal organization and city planning.

### **Arguments Against Annexation:**

- (1) The Sellwood Gardens area is in Clackamas County. This in itself should not be a deterrent to annexation, though the collection of taxes, holding of elections and other city-county affairs would be somewhat complicated by the action.
- (2) The Sellwood Gardens area is adjacent to the city of Milwaukie. Some of the people interviewed felt that the area should rightly be annexed to that city.
- (3) Some residents of Multnomah would prefer to wait until the county completes construction of Multnomah Blvd. scheduled to be started next year.
- (4) Some residents fear that taxes will be increased.
- (5) A few residents stated they liked the rural atmosphere and were afraid that annexation would speed up the change from rural to urban living.

### **Arguments in Favor of Annexation:**

- (1) The most general reason for favoring annexation in the southwest district seems to be a feeling that the business of supplying water and sanitary facilities can be handled more efficiently by paid city commissioners and their staffs than by non-paid boards of directors.
- (2) Bringing these areas into the city will broaden the tax base of the city and bring in the residences of a large number of people who now work in the metropolitan area and use municipal facilities but who do not bear any part of the cost of these facilities.
- (3) Extension of the zoning ordinance to cover the fringe areas at the edge of the city will be good for the community and
- (4) Extension of police services over these fringe areas is desirable.
- (5) Improvement of mass transportation to and from the outlying residential areas will result;



(6) The overlapping local governments which under the present system seem to compete for tax money will be eliminated.

(7) Better fire protection and resultant reduction in insurance rate will be accomplished.

**Discussion:**

The investigation in connection with the annexation of the four areas proposed brought forth a great deal of argument in favor of city-county consolidation. The committee, however, felt that this matter was outside its assigned task and makes no comment in this regard.

Many people were mistakenly of the opinion that annexation would automatically provide them with streets and sidewalks. Others were of the opinion that the city would construct sewers at little or no cost to property owners. The truth is that the city would construct the disposal plants and appurtenant works and the property being annexed would assume its share of the bonded indebtedness to pay for these facilities.

**Conclusion:**

The committee believes that annexation of the areas proposed would work to the mutual benefit of the citizens of the areas and the city.

**Recommendation:**

Your committee recommends that the City Club go on record as favoring the annexation of the four areas concerned which will appear on the ballot at the Special Municipal Election of the City of Portland, November 2, 1948.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANKLIN L. DAVIS  
HOLLIS JOHNSTON  
STANLEY SPORSEEN, *Chairman*

Approved October 21, 1948, by Nelson C. Hazeltine, *Section Chairman*, Legislation and Elections for transmittal to the Board of Governors.

Received October 25, 1948, by the Board of Governors and ordered published and submitted to the membership for discussion and action.

## CITY CLUB REVIEW OF ELECTION MEASURES

"To inform its members and the community in public matters and arouse in them a realization of the obligations of citizenship" is the objective of the City Club. As a means of accomplishing this purpose the City Club offers these summaries of its committees' reports together with membership recommendations on state and city measures to be voted on November 2, 1948.

Extra copies of these summaries and of the longer studies from which they were briefed can be secured from the City Club office, 925 Cascade Building, BR 3054 or CA 2002.

### STATE MEASURES

#### CONSTITUTIONAL SIX PER CENT TAX LIMITATION AMENDMENT

**PURPOSE:** To amend Section 11, Article XI, of the Constitution, providing for election on question of establishing new tax base in counties, municipalities and districts after the legal voters therein have authorized a tax levy in excess of the 6% limitation for two successive years; limiting such new tax base to the average of the total amounts levied in the year of such election and the two years immediately preceding it; providing for the initial establishment of a tax base in the same manner in municipalities and districts not previously included in or part of a like taxing unit.

This amendment should be adopted because it provides an orderly method of adjusting the tax base of cities, school districts and other taxing bodies at a time when their increased needs cannot be met under the present 6% constitutional limitation. Passage of the amendment will eliminate both the cost and the uncertainty of special

elections held to vote levies beyond the 6% limitation, will allow taxing bodies to plan budgets, and will permit new taxing districts to secure a tax base. The provision that four successive affirmative votes are necessary before a new tax base can be established gives voters ample opportunity to check extravagant and absurd tax proposals. Counties and cities which have enjoyed a great increase in population and which as a consequence have been obliged to provide augmented public services are sadly handicapped by the present limitation. Their need for relief is pressing and this amendment provides it.

Minority report and recommendation to support proposed amendment adopted by large majority of those present when the measure was discussed by the City Club.

VOTE 300 YES. I vote for the proposed law.



## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AUTHORIZING INDEBTEDNESS FOR STATE REFORESTATION

Amending state constitution by adding Article XI-E, authorizing an indebtedness by loan of state credit not exceeding at any one time  $\frac{3}{4}$  of 1% of all taxable property in state to provide funds for forest rehabilitation, reforestation and acquisition of lands. Funds derived from sale, exchange or use of forest lands shall be applied in liquidating indebtedness. Bonds or other obligations issued may be renewed or refunded. Ad valorem tax to be levied annually outside 6% limitation in sufficient amount for paying indebtedness and interest. Legislative assembly may provide other revenues supplementing or replacing tax levies and necessary legislation.

The report of the City Club committee authorized to study the above amendment was rejected by a large majority of those present at the meeting. On the basis of analysis developed from the floor, the City Club then voted to go on record as supporting the amendment. It was pointed out that the proposed law is an enabling act, permitting the state legislature to develop an orderly plan for rehabilitation of state owned forest lands and to appropriate funds to implement the program. Need for an immediate program of rehabilitation is imperative. The state has delayed too long the job of rebuilding a great source of future wealth. Defects said to be in the proposed amendment are more apparent than real, the legislative process being a guarantee that the program will be policed and the funds for it neither wasted nor misused.

VOTE 302 YES. I vote for the amendment.

## BILL AUTHORIZING STATE BOYS' CAMP NEAR TIMBER, OREGON

PURPOSE: Directs State Board of Control to establish, maintain and supervise a camp at Reeher's C.C.C. Camp near Timber, in Washington County, Oregon, for the biennium ending June 30, 1949, and thereafter if deemed advisable, for delinquent boys, wards of state courts of juvenile jurisdiction, between the ages of 12 and 18 years, committed for training in useful occupations, discipline, moral and spiritual instruction, academic and vocational education. Appropriates \$50,000 from funds authorized by section 3, chapter 317, Oregon Laws 1945, for establishment of camp, and \$100,000 from general fund for operation thereof for said biennium.

There is need for the state to study problems of delinquency and to plan for a real program of assistance to and rehabilitation of delinquents. But the proposed bill is defective. It does not set forth adequate personnel standards, does not distinguish between dependents and delinquents, does not provide for a cooperative program among existing corrective institutions, and does not establish a basis for admission to the camp which would "indicate the use of the camp resources to the boy's particular need." Moreover, though location of the camp should be left to the Board of Control which would determine its relationship to administrative and community resources, the bill specifies a location. The one specified is particularly dreary, regarded as unsuitable for many of the activities such a camp would be expected to promote. Other defects in the bill are that it provides for no follow-up psychiatric service to boys, is not clear on terms of permanent and temporary commitment of boys, and is perhaps in conflict with child labor standards in

its provision for work opportunity with compensation. The City Club committee also doubted that the amount of money provided for in the bill would be sufficient.

The committee recommended that the City Club oppose the bill. Report adopted by unanimous vote of the membership present at the meeting.

VOTE 305 NO. I vote against the proposed law.

## BILL AMENDING LICENSING AND ACQUISITION PROVISIONS OF HYDROELECTRIC COMMISSION ACT

PURPOSE: Amending hydroelectric commission act of Oregon requiring commission to set forth the maximum rate of return and amortization in license; providing that state or any municipality thereof shall have right to take over any project at expiration of the original license upon payment of fair value not exceeding net investment; if not taken over, commission may issue new license under then existing laws or extend original license according to the terms and conditions thereof for periods of five years; providing further, upon payment of just compensation state has right to acquire project during any license period by condemnation.

The City Club committee unanimously recommended against passage of the above bill on the basis of its report, but on motion from the floor, seconded, and sustained by a majority vote of the membership present, it was recommended that the City Club approve passage of the amendment.

It was argued that the present hydroelectric act inhibits private capital from investing in power developments in the state by making financing difficult and by fixing the recapture price at "net investment." It was likewise argued that contrary to the committee's findings there are other sites besides Oxbow that can be developed economically by private capital. It was also argued that construction of a dam at Oxbow would not prevent the erection of a multi-purpose on the Snake River.

VOTE 306 YES. I vote for the bill.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT FIXING QUALIFICATIONS OF VOTERS IN SCHOOL ELECTIONS

PURPOSE: To amend Article VIII of the constitution of the state of Oregon by adding thereto a new section numbered 6, as follows: In all school district elections every citizen of the United States of the age of twenty-one years and upward who shall have resided in the school district during the six months immediately preceding such election, and who shall be duly registered prior to such election in the manner provided by law, shall be entitled to vote, provided such citizen is able to read and write the English language.

This measure, if adopted, will permit non-property tax payers to vote in school elections in which tax levy and bond issues are involved. Many citizens who are parents of school age children and who are, therefore, vitally concerned with school problems, are prevented by law from voting. The fact is that every income tax payer is, in effect, directly supporting schools financially, as indeed are renters, rent rates normally being fixed by landlords to cover taxes.

In addition the Registrar of Elections cannot devise an accurate list of taxpayers for the use of election boards; for though a voter may not own



his home he may own a share of stock in a credit company, or a policy in an insurance company which is itself a property taxpayer. Thus, technically, the voter is a taxpayer in the meaning of the present law. Election boards do or do not challenge voters, and thus under the present law it is impossible to segregate tax payers from non-tax-payers on election day. A law so obviously unenforceable is absurd.

The committee recommended that the City Club approve the amendment. Report adopted almost unanimously by the members present at the meeting.

VOTE 308 YES. I vote for the said proposed amendment.

### OREGON OLD AGE PENSION ACT

**PURPOSE:** Directing Oregon legislature to provide funds by continuing appropriations and enact all necessary legislation to provide for and pay each needy female citizen of Oregon, 60 years of age, and each needy male citizen, 65 years of age, a monthly pension of \$50, to feed, clothe, house and provide hospital, medical, dental, including biotics and other needed care, and provide decent burials for such needy citizens.

Governor to appoint commission to administer act; authorizing State Board of Control to issue certificates of indebtedness; State Public Welfare Commission to administer during interim; limiting cost of administration to one percentum of income.

Analysis of the measure reveals that it is faulty on several grounds. It would appear to provide assistance to those covered by the proposal without any reference to their need or to their actual ability to support themselves. It would give the requirements of the old age pension act virtual priority over all other financial obligations of the state. It would declare majority votes on any measure to be the law of the state and would thus circumvent the protection to minorities guaranteed under the constitution. I would make one man appointed by the governor administrator of the pension plan and would thus establish an unhealthy concentration of power in one person. The proposed measure appears to be a device to circumvent the state constitution which clearly limits the purposes for which the state may incur debt. It would prevent courts from enjoining the operation of the act so far as pension provisions are concerned while its constitutionality was being examined, and would prevent stay of operation during a referendum.

Thus it would deny relief to the state while the state attempted to test the validity of the proposed law. Finally adoption of this measure would result in withdrawal of Federal aid, since states receiving such assistance under the Social Security Law must comply with certain prescribed legal requirements.

The committee recommended that the City Club oppose the bill. Report unanimously adopted by members present at the meeting.

VOTE 311 NO. I vote against the proposed law.

### BILL INCREASING PERSONAL INCOME TAX EXEMPTIONS

**PURPOSE:** Amending sections 110-1613 and 110-1614, O. C.L.A., as amended by Chapter 539, Oregon Laws 1947, providing that for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 1948, personal income tax exemptions shall

be: \$750—if the person is single, or married but not living with husband or wife; \$1,500—if the person is head of a family or married and living with husband or wife; providing that every person shall file a tax return if net income equals or exceeds the tax exemption, or if gross income exceeds \$4,000.

The present low level of income tax exemptions violates the principle of taxing according to ability to pay. An exemption of only \$1000 for a married man, in view of current inflationary conditions, works too great a hardship on lower-income families. The saving to be made under the amendment is admittedly not large but any saving to a low income family can be regarded in these times as substantial. Moreover, if the so-called Walker plan is put into operation in 1949, the additional \$4,000,000 collected under the present law will be returned to taxpayers in the form of discounts on current tax bills. The cost of refund claims in case of increased exemptions will not be material, since a routine for crediting prepayment of taxes to individual taxpayers' accounts must be installed in any case. Since the State Treasurer estimates that income tax-surplus at the end of the 1948-49 biennium will be \$53,000,000 there appears to be little need for continuation of the present low exemption level.

The committee recommended that the City Club favor passage of the proposed bill. Report accepted almost unanimously by members present at the meeting.

VOTE 312 YES. I vote for the amendment.

### OREGON LIQUOR DISPENSING LICENSING ACT

**PURPOSE:** Authorizing Oregon Liquor Control Commission to issue dispensing licenses to its licensed hotels, restaurants, clubs and common carriers of passengers for hire, permitting mixing, serving and selling of alcoholic liquor with or without food or meals on such conditions as prescribed by the commission.

Requiring annual license fee of \$500, performance bond of \$5,000, and in addition to purchase price of liquor, a tax of 25c per container of 32 ounces, and 1c per ounce for each ounce over 32.

Making provisions of Oregon liquor control act, rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, applicable to licensees.

The City Club committee did not find factual evidence to support arguments advanced either by proponents or opponents of the proposed act and therefore, finding it impossible to judge the merits of the bill on the basis of facts, submitted no recommendation to the membership. However, argument against the bill was developed from the floor, the argument being based on the report. Since there is no objective data available to prove that the proposed bill will be an improvement over the present law, the logical conclusion is that the present law should not be amended. The point made is that when no apparent value attaches to an amendment to a law it is unwise to tamper with the status quo. On motion, therefore, the committee's report was accepted but the recommendation was changed to read that the City Club go on record as recommending against passage of the bill. The motion was adopted by considerable majority of those present at the City Club meeting.

VOTE 315 NO. I vote against the proposed law.



## WORLD WAR II VETERANS BONUS AMENDMENT

**PURPOSE:** Amending constitution of Oregon by adding Article XI-f, authorizing "World War II Veterans' State Aid Fund," by sale of bonds in amount not exceeding 3% of assessable property in the state, to pay cash bonus of \$15 per month, an additional \$10 for each month of service outside continental limits of United States, not exceeding \$500, to honorably discharged persons enlisted, inducted, warranted or commissioned, who served in the armed forces of United States or its allies between December 7, 1941, and September 5, 1945.

Legislature to enact necessary legislation and provide payment to heirs of deceased veterans.

The proposed amendment would exclude from benefits of the act all veterans who entered service prior to Pearl Harbor. This is so serious a defect as to make the amendment unjustifiable were there not other reasons for disapproving it. However, the amendment does not provide for sound financing of the plan, for it allows for only \$40,000,000 for bonus grants that might amount to \$73,816,500. No provision is made to service the bonds; thus interest on them and administrative expense of the program will be financed from the general funds of the state, a condition bound to embarrass the state and to jeopardize its financial position. The committee also points out that veterans' benefits are a federal rather than a state obligation. Report recommended against adoption of the amendment and was unanimously supported by the City Club members attending the meeting.

**VOTE 317 NO.** I vote against the proposed amendment.

## PROHIBITING SALMON FISHING IN COLUMBIA RIVER WITH FIXED APPLIANCES

**PURPOSE:** Making it unlawful to construct or maintain in waters of Columbia river or tributaries, any pound net, fish trap, fish wheel, scow fish wheel, setnet, weir, drag seine, whip seine, or other fixed appliance, for catching salmon, salmon trout or steelhead; defining a setnet and seine. Excepting state and national government in catching fish for propagation or scientific purposes, and Indians under federal regulation. Providing penalties for violations, and subjecting all unlawful gear and appliances to condemnation and sale; proceeds and fines arising from violations to be paid to state treasurer for benefit of state fish commission.

The minority report of the City Club committee which studied the above proposed law was adopted by a large majority of those present at the City Club meeting. The basis for approval of the

law is that fixed gear is the most deadly and destructive means in use of catching fish. Escape-ment is impossible not only for large but for small fish. The state of Washington and the Territory of Alaska have made fixed gear illegal. In Washington the escapement of steelhead has increased, the commercial take since the elimination of fixed gear being about 30% less than before 1935.

Steelhead fishing, sport fishing, has practically ceased on the Oregon side of the Columbia, but is now good in Washington. Owners of fixed gear would not need to go out of the fishing business were this law to be passed; for they could use gill nets which do permit escapement of fish. Commercial fishing practices do not account entirely for the disappearance of fish from the Columbia, but those practices must be regulated to the end that conservation of a great natural resource is encouraged and as much as possible ensured. The state can enact other laws supplementary to this one to protect fish more adequately, but this law is a step in a needed conservation program.

**VOTE 318 YES.** I vote for the proposed law.

## REFERRED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE Certificate of Necessity for Levying a Tax in Excess of the Six Per Cent Constitutional Limitation

(Pursuant to Chapter 477, Oregon Laws 1947)

**PURPOSE:** Shall the State Tax Commission be authorized to levy a tax amounting to \$6,430,069.10 in excess of the limitation imposed by Section 11, Article XI, of the Constitution of the State of Oregon, to meet appropriations and expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1949, to be offset by funds derived from taxes on or measured by net income?

Unless this authorization is granted the state's finances will be in a technical deficit position, because authorized expenditures exceed revenues in the amount of \$6,490,069.10. This amount must be raised by a special property tax levy which under the law will be offset by receipts from the income tax fund. This means that passage of the law merely permits a bookkeeping transfer of funds already available in the income tax fund from that fund to the general funds of the state. *No new property tax will be levied.* The committee's recommendation that the City Club go on record as favoring this levy was unanimously adopted by the members present at the meeting.

**VOTE 320 YES.** I vote for the proposed levy.

## PORTLAND CITY CLUB BULLETIN

*Published each Friday by the*

### CITY CLUB OF PORTLAND

**MARGARET CLARKE, Executive Secretary**

**Offices: 925 CASCADE BUILDING • BR 3054 - CA 2002**

**PORTLAND 4, OREGON**

*Entered as second class matter at the Portland, Oregon, post office October 29, 1920, under act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rate one dollar per year included in annual dues.*

**CITY CLUB DUES:** Senior, age 28 and over, \$15.00 per year; Junior, age 27 and under, \$6.00 per year; Non-Residents, \$5.00 per year; Sustaining members, \$25.00 per year. The regular **FRIDAY LUNCHEON MEETINGS** are held in the Crystal Room of the Benson Hotel.

### OFFICERS OF THE CLUB

**BLAIR STEWART**.....President  
**JOHN W. McHALE**.....1st Vice-President  
**RICHARD M. STEINER**.....2nd Vice-President  
**ALFRED H. CORBETT**.....Secretary  
**LLOYD F. ECKHARDT**.....Treasurer

### GOVERNORS OF THE CLUB

**ROBERT C. SHOEMAKER** **CLARENCE D. PHILLIPS**  
**FREDERIC F. JANNEY** **RALPH THOM**  
**STUART R. STRONG** **CHARLES E. WRIGHT**



## CITY MEASURES

### ACT AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL TAX FOR FIRE AND POLICE DISABILITY RETIREMENT AND DEATH BENEFIT PLAN

**PURPOSE:** To amend an Act of the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon entitled: "An Act to incorporate the City of Portland, Multnomah County, State of Oregon, and to provide a charter therefor, and to repeal all acts or parts of acts in conflict therewith," filed in the office of the Secretary of State January 23, 1903, as subsequently amended by said Legislative Assembly and by the people of the City of Portland from time to time and as recodified, revised, arranged and annotated by Ordinances numbered 76832 and 76902, providing for the establishment of a retirement, disability payment and death benefit plan for members of the Bureaus of Police and Fire of the City of Portland and their families, providing a fund for the payment of retirement, disability and death payments, providing for the payment of certain service connected disability payments from the General Fund, providing for the administration of said plan, providing for a Reserve Fund, repealing the present pension systems of both Bureaus, and providing for the levy of a special tax by the Council each year in addition to its regular general levy of a tax not over two and one-half (2½) mills or less than one (1) mill in any one year on the dollar valuation of taxable property in the City of Portland, said tax not to be computed as a part of the revenue raised by taxation which is subject to the tax limitation of Section 11, Article XI of the Constitution of the State of Oregon, and said tax levy being in addition to all other taxes which may be levied according to law.

The character of the present Fire and Police Bureau retirement plans in Portland is unsatisfactory. The Vollmer Report stressed the necessity of an adequate retirement plan for the Portland Police Bureau which, because it does not have one, suffers an inefficient personnel program. The Fire Bureau operates under a similar handicap. The present proposal would provide not only retirement insurance but also would allow disability benefits more liberal than those permitted under the Public Employees Retirement Plan of the State of Oregon but comparable to those established in cities the size of Portland. The proposed plan in comparison with plans for other cities indicates that Portland's is about average in costs and benefits, is not excessively liberal in its provision of benefits, and is a sound plan so far as can be ascertained at the present time. The proposed plan appears to have been worked out carefully and conservatively. The City Club committee recommended membership approval of the act and was supported by unanimous vote of the members present.

VOTE 500 YES. I vote for the act.

### AN ACT TO AMEND THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF PORTLAND IN ORDER TO PERMIT STREET VACATIONS

**PURPOSE:** An Act to amend the Charter of the City of Portland so as to permit street vacations within a distance of 2000 feet from any meander line of any navigable water or 1000 feet from any railroad depot or terminal yard when necessary or in the public interest for use by the United States, the State of Oregon, or political subdivision or any governmental agency of either, for a public purpose other than street use. Shall the Charter be so amended?

This act, if passed will permit the Post Office Department to increase its facilities at the Glisan Street station. A new annex is a necessity for Portland since the amount of business transacted by the Portland Post Office has increased five times since 1940. But passage of the act will serve not only the immediate necessity but will eliminate future restrictions of a like nature that could impede the city's development. To be sure the United States Government could exercise its right of eminent domain for the acquisition of this or any other property, but that procedure is undesirable because it leads often to lengthy legal involvements and delays. Passage of the act will amend the old Ziegler amendment which was passed for a specific purpose in no wise circumvented by the proposed new act. The committee recommended that the City Club go on record as approving the proposed act and was unanimously sustained by the vote of those present at the meeting.

VOTE 504 YES. I vote for the amendment.

### AMENDMENT TO PORTLAND'S CITY CHARTER TO PROVIDE FIRE EQUIPMENT AND BUILDING FUND

**PURPOSE:** An act to amend Portland's city charter to provide for a fire equipment and building fund to be used for the purchase of new fire equipment to replace 21 pieces of equipment 20 to 35 years old and to purchase property for, construct and equip modern fire stations to replace Engine Houses Nos. 1, 2, 13, 19, 21 and 32; directing the levying therefor of a special tax for the years 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952 and 1953 in excess of constitutional limitation of not to exceed one-half mill on each dollar of assessed valuation and directing the proceeds from the salvage of obsolete fire equipment be placed in such fund.

Portland is without question in need of new fire equipment and fire stations. The bill would permit replacement of 20 pieces of equipment all over 20 years old. Nine of the 20 are over 25 years old and include one hook and ladder and one horse truck purchased before World War I. During the past ten years the Fire Bureau has made an average outlay for equipment of only \$16,000. Inability to secure equipment during the war years accounts for this small expenditure. Funds beyond that amount reverted to the general funds of the city. Fire stations are more obsolete, probably, than is the equipment. In spite of poor equipment and buildings Portland's Fire Bureau has had an outstanding record and the city is one of the two on the coast enjoying Class 2 rating by the National Board of Fire Underwriters. This classification is in danger of being changed, however. The proposed expenditures under the act seem reasonable. For motive equipment \$384,000 is budgeted over a 5 year period. It is not usually sound administrative practice to tie financial detail into a city charter but the 6% constitutional limitation makes this kind of act necessary. The City Club committee recommended that the membership go on record as favoring the act and was unanimously sustained by the members present at the meeting.

VOTE 506 YES. I vote for the amendment.